

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Review of a pilot project to enhance the Value-added Textiles Sector in Vietnam**

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#### **BACKGROUNDS**

HELVETAS is a co-implementing partner of Swisscontact in the implementation of the Swiss Import Promotion Program (SIPPO) in 11 countries globally. The Program will enhance the performance of selected Business Support Organizations (BSO) in Vietnam in order to enable them to provide export promotion services in two sectors: Technical Wood (TW) and Outdoor Furniture, and Value Added Textiles (VAT) in an effective, efficient and sustainable way. The first phase of the Program (2017-2021) is approaching its final months and the transition to the second phase, lasting until 2019.

In 2017, when SIPPO started, certain challenges had been identified for Vietnam to enhance the value-added textile (VAT) industry as it was envisaged under the SIPPO mandate which applies an indirect approach, focusing on building up capacities of BSOs in their provision of last-mile services to companies of their sector.

Therefore, in 2017 and 2018, SIPPO invested in a fact finding and a feasibility study to identify potential VAT products to support. The Program analysed links of some key BSOs to a relevant number of export-prepared Vietnamese owned companies producing value-added apparels. SIPPO elaborated a pilot with an adapted approach to create value for the textile sector in Vietnam. The customized approach embraced more flexibility, involving all relevant potential BSOs namely VITAS, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ho Chi Minh City Branch (VCCI-HCM), Vietnam Industry Agency (VIA). Besides last-mile activities which remained the core focus, support was extended to BSOs and selected companies in preparation for such last-mile activities. The piloting proposal was approved by SECO in Jan 2019 and started pilot activities from March 2019 until end of 2020 with some delays due to COVID to continue until June 2021.

This ToR is for the service to assess the pilot activities of the first phase of the program and to provide recommendations for SIPPO's support in the VAT sector of Vietnam in the future.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The assignment comprises the following objectives:

- Provide an external view on the pilot activities and assess their results
- Define lessons learned on the approach applied, the partners and resources involved and the implementation strategy chosen
- Formulate recommendations for a possible next phase (be it to invest in activities or be it to size them down), regarding reachable outcomes also in relation to other sector supporting activities available in Vietnam; proposing milestones and outputs to reach the outcomes.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Jointly working with Helvetas and SIPPO Program staff and associated experts:

- Development of an assessment framework, define criteria and method for the assessment;
- Outline of the report
- Direct visit and interviews with informants;
- Debriefing with Helvetas and SIPPO Vietnam for the key findings
- Preparation of the report.

## **DELIVERABLES**

- An assessment framework
- A brief note and PPT for key findings
- A written report for Helvetas to present to its partners (5 pages)

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The consultant will carry out the activities in autonomy and in close cooperation with the HELVETAS Country Director and the SIPPO country coordinator and admin team as required.

No	Key Activity	Tentative timeline	Number of days (maximum)
1	Literature review; preparation and inception meetings; development of the assessment framework and tools together with Helvetas and SIPPO	30 Mar- 10 Apr 2021	05 days
2	Interviews with informants	12- 20 Apr 2021	05 days
2	Key notes and PPT debriefing	20- 29 Apr 2021	03 days
2	Report preparation and a meeting for finalization	5 – 15 Apr 2021	03 days
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16 days</b>

## **LOGISTIC**

By the project including air tickets, car transportation, accommodations and meals.

## **REPORTING/ DEBRIEFING**

With deadline of submission deliverables/documents electronically.

## **DOCUMENTS**

List of project documents the consultant needs for the consultancy/mission:

- SIPPO mandate description
- Reports of international experts for the In-depth study and the Feasibility studies
- Activities reports
- SIPPO VAT proposal & approval of SECO

Interested candidates should send their CV showing related experiences for the sector and expertise for evaluation, references, proposed plan for execution together with and a quotation (with proposed changing of working days if any) to [info@sippo.vn](mailto:info@sippo.vn) by 16.00, 2 April, 2021.